Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 021856Z JUL 75 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9653 INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY AMCONSUL CALCUTTA AMCONSUL MADRAS

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REF: STATE 154536

1. YOUR PROPOSED RESPONSE ON EFFECT OF THE EMERGENCY ON PARLIAMENT IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. SINCE RAJYA SABHA IS A CONTINUING BODY, HOWEVER, PM MUST STILL OBTAIN CONSENT WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF AT LEAST THIS HOUSE EVEN IF PARLIAMENT IS DISOLVED. ORDINANCES ISSUED UNDER THE EMERGENCY MUST RECEIVE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL WITHIN SIXTY DAYS UNLESS PARLIAMENT IS DISSOLVED. EXECUTIVE EVEN UNDER AN EMERGENCY IS LIMITED BY THE CONSTITUTION; I.E., IT CANNOT ENCROACH UPON THE JUDICIARY BEYOND THE SUSPENSION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ALLOWED UNDER AN EMERGENCY. THUS, MRS. GANDHI CANNOT LEGALLY INTERFERE WITH THE SUPREME COURT'S HEARING OF HER CASE.

(COMMENT FYI: GIVEN THE LARGE CONGRESS MAJORITY IN BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, THE REACTION AMONG CONGRESS MP'S AND THE REMOVAL OF OPPOSITION LEADERS IN PARLIAMENT, WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME FORE-SEE ANY PROBLEM FOR MRS. GANDHI IN ACQUIRING PARLIAMENT'S ACQUIESCENCE TO THE EMERGENCY. END COMMENT).

2. FIGURES ON ARRESTED MP'S: BELOW ARE FIGURES ON THE NUMBER, PARTY AFFILIATIONS OF ARRESTED MP'S IN PARIAMENT, WHICH INCLUDES THE LOK SABHA (524 MEMBERS) AND THE RAJYA SABHA (243 MEMBERS). GIVEN THE STRICT CENSORSHIP IMPOSED, WE HAVE NO WAY OF GAUGING WHETHER THIS LIST IS COMPLETE. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY'S ARREST, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED IN THE PRESS. ALL OF THE POLITILIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIANS ARRESTED, INCLUDING THE CONGRESS (R) MP'S, WERE ASSOCIATED

WITH J.P. NARAYAN'S MOVEMENT. THE CONGRESS (O), JANA SANGH, BHARTIYA LOK DAL (BLD) AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY, WERE THE LEAD-ING PARTIES IN THE PRO-J.P. NARAYAN "PEOPLES (JANATA) FRONT."

NAME PARTY

CHANDRA SHEKHAR CONGRESS (R) 496 MEMBERS RAM DHAN " "

MAHAN DHARIA (PROBABLE) "

MORARJI DESAI CONGRESS (O) 20

S.N. MISHRA

L.K. ADVANI

A.B. VAJPAYEE

MUKHTIYAR SINGH
SUBRANAMIAM SWAMY

CONGRESS (O) 20

31 MEMBERS

" " " "

" " " "

RAJ NARAIN BHARTIYA LOK DAL 20 "
PILOO MODY " " " " "

PILOO MODY

M. LIMAYE (PROBABLE) SOCIALIST SAMAR BUHA " 7" SOCIALIST PARTY 7 "

A.K. GOPALAN (RUMORED) COMMUNIST (MARXIST) 32 "

TOTAL: 14 SAXBE

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